



Validating Marital Commitment Inventory in Iranian state university students

Mojghan khorasaniyan *

M.A of Educational psychology, Islamic Azad university, Bojnourd Branch, Bojnourd, Iran

Keywords:

Construction

Validation

Marital Commitment Inventory

Construct Validity

Reliability

Abstract

This research was performed in order to validate the Marital Commitment Inventory among the students of Iran's state universities which were selected by. The inventory was constructed via Delphi technique based on Johnson's theoretical framework. It had 37 items and 2 additional items for detecting lies. In this way 500 persons were selected from the statistical population by employing multi cluster sampling. After that exploratory factor analysis was applied for assessing factor structure and construct validity of the inventory. Results: The outcomes realized that 12 out of 37 items were excluded because of meaningless factor loadings and there only stood 25 items. In order to inspect the residual items, the confirmatory factor analysis was performed and approved the 25-item inventory with 6 subscales, including: social, personal, gratifying, moral, cultural, and logical- intuitive commitment. Except of the gratifying subscale which holds only 2 items, other subscales include at least 3 items. Using Cronbach's alpha co-efficient the reliability of the residual items was confirmed. Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) and Wilks Lambda were applied to compare the differences between bachelor and married students, and also female and male students. It represented that the average scores of the cultural subscale in married students are meaningfully higher than those of the bachelors. Besides it realized that the average scores of male students are meaningfully higher in moral and logical- intuitive subscale. Also female students have meaningfully higher scores in cultural subscale. Conclusion: Overall the 25- item inventory has validity and reliability to assess commitment in Iran's state university students. It has the potential to study commitment amongst people who are going to marry, couples with problematic relationships, different nationalities and so on.

* Corresponding author email: Mojghankhorasaniyan@yahoo.com

Introduction

Marriage is the first emotional and legal treaty in our life. In addition, mate selection and matrimony treaty are both signs of mature and personality progress. Choosing wife, undoubtedly, is one of the most important decisions that we take in our life. (Bireshk, 1382). Marriage, is the first and most important step in the cycle of family life in which the choosing spouse is done, and, success in other stages of life, depends to success at this stage. (nietzel and harris,2008).

Although, marriage is still part of the structure of society, but now parents and marriage inductors, do not impose the choice of spouse and instead of, more free choice reigns or so it seems. (sohrabi, 1382). For this purpose, existence a series of awareness's and information in order to enhance the quality of marriage is required. Marriages are successful that in which mate selection criterions correctly are observed. And the parties have been awareness and clearly definition from self-criteria's (refahi, 1387).

Priorities and criterions of mate selection are perceptions about traits or characteristics that from a fantasy lover or potential spouse are demanded and many of these perceptions clearly associated with emotions. (Buss, 2007). Simon (2008) in addition, one research showed, when people discover that into correct selection wife criteria's were oblivious, they feel frustration and marital depression and inappropriate selection of criteria's for mate selection can be one of source of the frazzle and gradual downfall marital life.

Disaffection and marital depression, is scale down emotional attachment to the spouse that it accompanies to feeling of alienation, disinterest and couple indifference to each other and replacement negative emotions instead of positive emotions. In a desperate marriage, one or both spouses, meanwhile experience the feeling of dissociation of spouse and reduction of interests and reciprocal communications, have significant concerns about the growing destruction of the relationship and leading to separation and divorce. (Scarify karsoli & beshlide, 1390).

Although most marriages experience a frustration but many of them have continued with low quality and those form unstable married life that is liable collapse and it will accompany with the frequency of thoughts and ideas about separation. (sharifi & others, 1390) Serious attention to mate selection criterions and choosing of spouse ago marriage, looks essential for preventing this situation, marital frazzle. (2009, lee). generally, the working on marital frazzle has many effects on improving relations between spouses, the possibility of the formation of the more conscious marriage with considering mate selection criterions and improving relations between spouses, increasing respect and supporting, having a positive attitude to life, and finally, to achieve self – actualization (neils,2009).

Existence conflict between couple is other factor that it feels that it can influence marital quality (kudmir and partners,2008). reason of mate's referral for treatment is often conflict. mates may refer to therapist with this reason that they cannot be together and or that they are dissatisfied from life or they are depressed (Peterson ,2002 quote from sodany,1385)

1-Mate selection preference

Marital obligation is the most strong and most stable factor of predictor quality and marital relationship stability (mosque, quote from karimian, karimi , bahmani , 1390) and from view of Johnson (1991) consists three components which those include personal and ethical and structural obligation , that each of them are consisting of several sub- components .personality obligation is consisting of three sub- components , absorbing , marital satisfaction, shared identity . Ethical obligation possesses always three sub-component, specific values, sense of personal persosion and sense of value in the treatment and structural obligation possesses four sub-component, alternatives, the social pressure, the irrecoverable investment, the process of ending a relationship.

Life of some couples leads to separation by losing color the first impressions after marriage, but most

of them continue to living together with invariable and boring song. Some turn to gastronomy, consumption of liquors, or narcotic material and some of them turn to illegal relationship to endure it.

(Glasser, 2007, drigotas and barta ,2001) Defined infidelity as crossing from marital relationship border and establishing physical or emotional intimacy with another person. Bowen introduces the concept of triangulation in this one that means entering third person or third element in one marital relationship (Abdi, khoshkonesh, porebrahim and mohammadi, 1391) the main reasons of divorce and family breakdown are wife infidelity and treason (buss and shackelford , 1997).

Research of Johnson and rusbult (1989) showed that violation possibility of loyalty in marital life depend on the level of couple's obligation more than it be correlated with marital satisfaction. Also Erikson specifies loyalty as the basic abilities that person may achieve it during the adolescence. (Schultz, 2001). Humans learn relations from the observant and the dominant culture in society during the development stages from childhood to adulthood and they are lord of the mental structures and theories in this context (Baldwin, 1992, Fletcher and Thomas, 1996).

The changing in accountability of a person depends on him and his wife interests and red lines and their mutual relationship (kurdek, 2000). Relationship goes smoothly until the couples have acted in accordance with the rules and they respect to each other's expectations, but if they profane to each other's expectations, the field will be ready for creating of problems (fetness, 2001). as sharing the emotions has higher value for the women, emotional infidelity is more annoying for them. while sexual infidelity is more minatory for the man, because it does not cause their doubt to that they are father. (buss, 1999, abraham, Cramer, Fernandez and Mahler, 2001, cann,magnum and wells,2001, Cramer, Abraham, Johnson , and manning – ryan,2001)

Quality and pattern of interest in adult romantic relationship may be like pattern of person interest in relationship with parent (ainsworth and bowlby , 1991 , Perry , 1991 and 1994 , fenny and noller , 1996 , Johnson and colleagues , 2001 , quote from katzander , 2009) interest style of the tration people have been reported avoidant in hatami ,fathi , gorji and esmaili(2011) research. Karampatsus (2012) notes positive correlation between religious beliefs and satisfaction of marital life. Finally, it is seen that modern marital life moves towards relationship and lower intimacy and reducing focuses on relationship between views in the current individualist, dependent on mobile phone, job, and consumer – oriented, crowed world. (Doherty, 2013).

Methodology

The used method in this study was descriptive and correlational. The purpose of this study was fundamental. From this method is used because the standardization questionnaire is required to evaluate the correlation between items together and the correlation between each item with total correlation and repeatability of test scores. (Human, 1384) The various theories were studied in this area in order to provide required tools and from among them were chosen Johnsons theory (1973, 1991, 1999).

The questions designed based on the three considered sub- scales, structural and moral, personal obligation in this theory and it was prepared after the several times reviewing questionnaire with thirty – nine question (includes two path meter question) that response of questions is given based on likret rating from zero score zero for that I am totally opponent by score six for that I am totally complaint. The questionnaire sent for six people of the professors who are owner of theory in this field in order to check content validity by Delphi method. Questionnaire questions performed on a group of fifty people after confirming the content that its performance started

on the main sample according to the acceptable scores for reliability and validity.

The statistical society of research was all students of Iran state universities that from among them, sampling performed by the phased and classified method. in this way that first, according to statistics of statistical center of Iran that it announced the number of governmental students 637500 people in year 1391 based on Morgan and krejcie table, the number of samples estimated 384 people but the number of samples was selected 500 people in order to obtain better results.

After that principal agreement of ten universities was taken in order to cooperate. The two schools from each university, from each school two field, and from each field two schools and from each class, half of the students were selected. The number of nine hundred and fifty questionnaire sent for scholar assistants by post that they emphasized to the completely voluntary participation of the students in this study , meanwhile referring to the objectives of the study .then required points for filling questionnaires was read aloud and from them was asked to respond carefully to questions .

By Measurement instrument of obligation operational variable of scholar questionnaire is made marital obligation. this tool has thirty –seven main questions and two pathometer question to increase the accuracy of the questionnaire .the questions are designed based on three subscales of structural and ethical and personal obligation of Johnson's s theory(1973, 1991, 1999), so that the nine questions for moral obligation and fourteen questions for structural obligation have been considered. The grading questionnaire is based on the likret method is in seven degree that it includes from score zero for the answering that I am quite complaint by score six for the answering that I am quite opponent.

Some questions have reversed grading. The Twelve sentences that their internal correlation with other sentences was poor were deleted during factor secondary analysis steps. from among of deleted sentences , five sentences related to

subscale of the moral obligation and four sentences related to structural subscale and three sentences related to personal subscale . in among of remaining sentences , three sentences have likret reverse grading that includes sentences 11 , 14 , 15, finally questionnaire with twenty-five questions prepared that its minimum score is zero and it s maximum is 150 and the point of cutting is 85. The first sub- scale that it is social obligation includes seven sentences. (6, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) that its maximum score is 42. the second subscale that it is personal obligation, it includes seven sentences(3,12,13,16,17,18,20), and its maximum score is 42.the third subscale is hedonistic obligation that it has two sentences (14,15) and its maximum score is 12 that because it contains less than three sentences , about it should be treated with caution. The fourth subscale is ethical obligation that it contains three sentences (23, 24, and 25) and its maximum score is 18. Fifth subscale contains three sentences (1, 2, and 4), its maximum score is 18. Also sixth subscale contains three sentences and its maximum score is 18.

Result

Demographics indicators current research was done on 480 students. (the 131 men and the 347 women) age average of the total sample was 22.42 with a standard deviation of 4.26 with minimum and maximum 14 and 49 years .the age average of men and women was respectively 22.32 and 22.66 with a standard deviation 3.92 and 5.06, sample distribution is brong according to marital status and level of education in table (1 - 4). Results of descriptive affair show that in total of sample 82.8 percent of people are single and 15.2 percent of people are married. Also two percent of participants did not specify their marriage status. Other results indicate that 3.9 percent of participants are studying in associate s degree and 68.2 percent of them are studying in bachelor s degree, 15.8 percent of them are studying in master s degree and 10.5 percent of them are studying in doctorate s degree and also 1.6 percent of them did not specify their teaching degree.

Scale reliability of the marital obligation

For evaluating the reliability of the scale of marital obligation was used from internal similarity method, in this section, the first results of reliability are presented through internal similarity method on the main set of scale materials of marital obligation with removing the expressions 22 and 23. In the

following, the reliability final coefficients of scale and the extracted factors will be presented after expressing results of factor analysis. , statistical characteristics of the expressions such as average and standard deviation of each phrase, along with the correlation coefficient with the whole set of 37 material and its cronbach s alpha coefficients is presented in table (4 - 2).

Table 1. average, standard deviation and correlation coefficient of phrases with the total score and Cronbachs alpha coefficients.

Alpha	Correlation with total	Standard deviation	Average	phrase	alpha	Correlation with total	Standard deviation	Average	phrase
0/73	0.32	0.85	3.01	20	0.74	0.17	1.13	2.59	2
0/74	0.02	1.04	1.15	21	0.73	0.25	1.09	1.35	2
0/73	0.22	1.04	2.65	23	0.73	0.29	1.14	1.63	3
0/73	0.21	1.02	2.60	24	0.73	0.24	0.90	2.98	4
0/74	0.08	1.04	1.17	25	0.73	0.38	1.12	1.47	5
0/73	0.34	0.98	2.73	26	0.73	0.29	1.02	1.10	6
0/74	0.18	0.86	2.20	27	0.72	0.41	1.19	1.80	7
0/73	0.29	0.93	3.06	28	0.73	0.38	1.13	1.49	8
0/74	0.17	1.16	1.88	29	0.73	0.26	0.94	1.03	9

0.73	0.29	.860	2.93	30	0.72	0.40	1.12	2.33	10
0.73	0.31	0.87	3.03	31	0.73	0.32	1.12	1.54	11
0.73	0.28	0.95	2.35	33	0.73	0.21	1.07	1.19	12
0.73	0.27	1.05	2.93	34	0.73	0.38	0.96	2.75	13
0.73	0.25	1.08	2.91	35	0.73	0.34	0/86	3.00	14
0.75	0.04	1.55	2.48	36	0.74	0.12	1.20	1.80	15
0.74	0.20		2.74	37	0.74	0.15	1.19	1.86	16
0.75	-0.05	1.22	2.32	38	0.73	0.21	0.90	2.19	17
0.73	0.24	1.00	2.89	39	0.73	0.24	0.83	3.11	18
*	*	*	*	*	0.74	0.04	1.09	2.22	19

As it seen in table 2, maximum average belongs to eighteenth phrase in a set of 37 phrases (marriage creates obligations for spouses that it not be passed easily from them and the lowest average is related to ninth phrase (the reason of marital obligation is fear of losing job) this matter shows that mentioned

expressions have respectively, the highest and the lowest degree of utility to measure marital obligation. The other result of the second table show that the highest and lowest standard deviation, respectively, belong to phrases 36 (having sexual relation without interest with

someone except wife cannot be considered as lack of obligation) and of eighteen (marriage creates obligations for spouses that it cannot be passed easily from them). Reliability coefficient of the entire set of thirty-seven phrases was obtained equal 0.74 percent that it is estimated based on cronbach s alpha.

Phrase 7 and 21, respectively, have the highest and lowest correlation (recognition power) with coefficients 0.41 and 0.02. In addition to the phrase 21 (lack of obligation to the wife in the absence of the proper way to solve family problems, is justifiable). Statements 19 (commitment to wife is different from responsibility into family) and 25(it is better that remain committed toward that for requirement of time and plenty financial costs for ending shared life in the worst situation) ,36 (having sexual relationship without interest with someone except wife cannot be considered as lack of obligation), And 38 also (a person has the right for that he does not be engaged in the absence of commitment) have recognition power less than ten percent. According to this, at this stage from research, those are excluded from analysis and other analyses continues with set of thirty –two phrases.

In current research, the amount of kmo is equal 0.79 and also the significant level of (tabarsels) spherical test is less of 0.0005. Covering percentage of common variance between variables explains 47.18 percent of the total variables variance in total for these six factors. in the meanwhile, initially ,the first factor with special value 4.38 explains about 13.70 percent of the total variance , the second factor with special value 4.23 explains about 13.22 percent of the total variance , the third factor with special value 2.17 explains about 6.78 percent of the total variance , the fourth factor with special value 1.73 explains about 5.40 percent of the total variance , the fifth factor with special factor 1.41 explains about 4.40 percent of the total variance and finally , the sixth factor with special value 1.18 explains about 3.68 percent of the total variance . other results showed that also the lowest amount of sharing is equal 0.12 and it

belongs to phrase 27 (even in the lack of obligation of wives to each other, their common identity is not negligible also highest amount of sharing is equal 0.69 and it belongs to sixteenth phrase (the lack of satisfaction from sexual relation can justify lack of obligation to the wife) and thirty – fifth phrase (the creating emotional communication with someone except wife can be considered as lack of obligation) .

The extracted factors was moved to the new axes that those are put together at a non-vertical angle based on the current methods and with using of bowed rotation from factor loads in order to obtain meaningful structure from factor loads after repeatedly performing factor analysis and extracting plenty factors and comparing extracted factors with scale the oretical structure and available theoretical principles and also, the considering assumptions of factor analysis that those were referred in above , it was decided, that the number of six factor were extracted by direct ablymyn. This method among rotation bowed methods more is recommended. (Human, 1380). In addition, the number of expressions that those should be deleted from set, was less and extracted factors had reality and clearer structure.

rotated matrix indicates on that :1-expressions o 39 , 26 , 24 , 27 and 30 have factor load less load from 0.40 and those are deleted from the set of phrases .2- First and twenty – ninth phrases have complexity and at least, those have factor near load in two factor .3 - other phrases are very pure or those are without complexity and or factor load of them on the main factors has long distances from other factors .maximum coefficient in matrix of the correlation structure of each phrases is with factor with load more than 0.84 and it belongs phrase 35 (the creating emotional relationship face to face with someone except the wife is considered as lack of obligation).

with adjusting of top items , reanalysis was done on structure with Twenty-five phrases explained variance of this structure was 54,18 percent .explained variance of first phrase by sixth phrase was , respectively , 16.60,14.35,7.37,6.11,5.42and 4.33 percent . in this structure, the all phrases had

clear load and greater than 0.40 percent. the maximum and minimum of the subscription belongs to phrases 20, 35 with amount of %75 and %27 in this structure. but the one of the factors is made only from two phrases, according to determined assumptions at the beginning of the action, the Taking of decision on this confirmatory factor analysis. thus this factor with two phrases will remained carefully with approving six – factor structure. according to what was said above, the number of factor that those were based for

determining, final features, those were six factor, based on analysis results of scale materials that those are obtained by performing analysis method of main components (pc). the phrases that those correlated commonly with the one factor, those form a sub-scale based on matrix of factors structure, this sub-scales extracted and named as followed and respectively the highest of factor load. the number of phrases and the name of each of them was showed in table 3.

Table 3. the number of phrases and name of sextet factors of marital obligation scale

Name of factor	Phrases	Factor
Social	6,7,8,9,10,11,12	First
Personal	4,13,14,17,18,20,28	Second
Hedonistic	15,16	Third
Moral	34,35,37	Fourth
Cultural	2,3,5	Fifth
Logical-emotional	23,31,33	Sixth

As the other assumed models also existed alongside each extracted model, for ensuring from the accuracy of extracted factors, structures with 5 and 3 and 2 and 1 factors were studied by deleting phrases that those have recognition low power. The analysis's suggested that 1-phrases 1, 6, 8, 23, 24, 26, 27 deleted in structure with five factor and with four times of repetition. Explained variance is equal 48.12 percent. (Table 4) in the structure with four factors with three times of repetition, the phrases 18, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 33 were deleted. And 46.70 percent of explained variance is

obtained. (the table of 10-4) 4- in the structure with two factors and three times of repetition, the phrases 1,3,15,16,17,23,24,27,29,33 deleted And 35.66 percent of explained variance is obtained. (the table of 12-4). 6- the structure with one factor with phrases 4,13,14,18,24,28,30,31,34,35,37,39 that those had factor appropriate load, explain only 30.18 percent of the total variance.

1- extracted Factors Reliability of marital obligation scale

Table 4. reliability coefficients of sextet factors and the total scale of marital obligation

Coefficient of dividing	Cronbach s alpha	Number of phrases	factor
0.72	0.82	7	first
0.61	0.72	7	Second
0.73	0.73	2	third
0.47	0.71	3	Fourth

0.59	0.65	3	fifth
0.43	0.48	3	sixth
0.24	0.75	25	total

As it is seen in the top table, maximum coefficient belongs to first factor (0.82) and minimum coefficient belongs to sixth factor (0.48).in total, reliability coefficients of factors reduce from top-down. And only coefficient of one factor isn't less from 0.60 and it tells this matter that the

recognition of the number of factors was done correctly. Coefficients of dividing are changing from 0.24 by 0.73. The scale structure of marital obligation showed based on exploratory factor analysis that this scale can be interpreted based on structures with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 factors.

Table 5 . fitness indexes confirmatory factor analysis model of sextet factor of marital obligation scale

<i>RMSEA</i>	<i>CFI</i>	<i>AGFI</i>	<i>GFI</i>	<i>P</i>	χ^2/df	<i>df</i>	χ^2	Solutions
0.13	0.77	0.78	0.85	0.0005	9.54	54	515.32	1 factor
0.09	0.84	0.82	0.85	0.0005	4.60	20	956.62	2 factor
0.10	0.84	0.76	0.80	0.0005	6.09	22	1381.79	3 factor
0.09	0.73	0.79	0.83	0.0005	4.41	24	1085.48	4 factor
0.08	0.84	0.80	0.82	0.0005	3.85	26	1019.10	5 factor
0.06	0.90	0.86	0.89	0.006	2.85	26	742.18	6 factor

Listed results in table 5 suggests that indexes of model , six – factor scale of marital obligation have better fitness with data rather than models with 1,2,3,4 and 5 factors .square (742.18) is significant statistically . This affair occurs usually in samples with large volume. According to, it is offered, the other fitness indexes were used to select the optimal model. square with degrees of freedom was equal 2.85 and it is in accordance with the byrne (1989) and bentler(1993) proposed criteria that they know the proper value , at least less than 2 and up to 3 that it shows relatively good status . Also indexes GF1 equal 0.89 and GF1 equal 0.90, represent good fitness of data. Square root of approximation error variance (RMSEA) also is equal (0.06) that it can be concluded that the degree of approximation of the model is not large (Brown and Kandk, 1993).

Discussion

According to dividing and cronbach s alpha coefficients, it can be showed that six extracted

factors from scale of marital obligation have suitable reliability. cronbach s alpha general coefficients of questionnaire is 0.75, and only there are cronbach s alpha coefficient below only about sixth factor in comparing with Adams and Jones questionnaire that they reported obtained reliability coefficients for its sub-scales respectively 0.91,0.89, 0.86 and for the total questionnaire 0.89 and in Iran that in rateral research , shahsyah and colleagues (1388) , rezai and colleagues (1391) , abbasi mvlyd (1391) and dehnavi khaleghi and yazdkhasti (1392) reported the reliability of the questionnaire , respectively , 0.85, 0.78, 0.82 and 0.85, and according to , the questionnaire was new and it was run for the first time , it has appropriate reliability. Also maybe if statistical sample of current research choiced only from among couples and married people the results of they would be closer to previous research.

The hedonistic obligation has significant and negative relation with the ethical obligation (p-0.01). The first it should be warned that hedonistic

obligation has only two phrases and for it should be treated carefully. But according to the hedonistic obligation questions, it is expected that the relationship between them be negative. It should be noted that the hedonistic commitment includes phrases that those are subset of Johnson's personal obligation and in this research; ethical and personal obligation has significant correlation. So, in this respect, the direction of the two researches is proved. Also the hedonistic commitment has significant and positive relationship with logical emotional obligation. since logical – emotional obligation is combination from two groups of questions, that those located in a the sub- scale in confirmatory factor analysis (one question for logical obligation and two questions for emotional obligation) relating of all this questions with hedonistic obligation is not easy consistently .

The questions of the emotional obligation can have a positive relationship with hedonistic obligation. But logical obligation with a question is hardly justifiable. But as emotional – logical obligation is subset of Johnson's personal and structural obligation and since in his research these two types of obligations had moderate negative correlation in the women, this issue is correlative about women. About men, also, there was no significant correlation in both researches that it proves frequently correlation of current test with the Johnson's test. Other result of recent research is that ethical obligation has significant and positive relation with emotional – logical obligation that frequently correlation of them is proved by relying on mentioned information.

In comparing with ruzbalt and marts research (1998) because of elimination related questions with sub – scales in his mind during the factor analysis. There is no room for debate .Stanly and markman (1992) were considered the role of personal obligation more important than mandatory obligation. Also, social obligation with coefficient 0.82 locates in the first of importance with large difference from personal obligation. So, these two researches are considered non – aligned.

Since Stanly's and markman's revised questionnaire are exactly correlative with Stanly's and markman's research, these two researches also are non- aligned.

Agnive and lee did meta- analysis that its result was predictability of obligation with sub – scales of satisfaction from common life and alternatives and investment. Satisfaction from common life was strongest among these 3. That it is subset of Johnson's personal obligation. this research is consistent with all foreign researches that those was noted so far but it is non- aligned with recent research, even second and third mentioned factors in this meta – analysis are not aligned with results of recent research in no way .as top results have been obtained from one meta- analysis it can be said that it proves non- alignment of recent research with external researches completely. The reason of big difference of foreign studies with recent research, more than anything can associate to Iran social, cultural, historical, religious differences.

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